

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 STR-04 AGRE-00 OMB-01 EPG-02 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5182

INFO USDOC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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USDOC FOR BEWT

E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: ECON, EEWT, GE

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF GDR 1978 PLAN ANNOUNCED:

FOREIGN TRADE DIFFICULTIES CITED

1. IN JULY 11 ARTICLES IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, THE GDR
ANNOUNCED THE BEGINNING OF AN EIGHT WEEK PERIOD OF INTRA-
GOVERNMENTAL DISCUSSION OF THE 1978 ECONOMIC PLAN,
THE FIRST STEP IN FORMULATION OF THE EXACT GOALS FOR
THE ECONOMY NEXT YEAR. PREDICTABLY, THE PRESS CAMPAIGN
STRESSES THE NEED FOR HIGHER LABOR PRODUCTIVITY AND
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EFFICIENCY AS WELL AS PRODUCT QUALITY TO SECURE SOCIAL-
POLITICAL GOALS ANNOUNCED AT THE SED PARTY CONGRESS.

2. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WAS THE LINE TAKEN BY NEUES
DEUTSCHLAND'S LEAD EDITORIAL, WHICH DREW ATTENTION
TO DIFFICULTIES POSED BY PRICE HIKES OF IMPORTS OF
IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL RAW MATERIALS

FORM THE WEST. EDITORIAL ALSO TERSELY NOTED THAT THE PRICE FOR RAW MATERIALS HAD INCREASED IN TRADE BETWEEN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND POINTED OUT THAT THESE TRADE "DIFFICULTIES/ WILL REQUIRE IMPROVED ECONOMIC PERFORMRANCE BY THE GDR.

3. COMMENT: EDITORIAL IS SIGNIFICANT NOT ONLY FOR ITS CANDOR REGARDING TRADE DIFFICULTIES, BUT ALSO FOR IMPLYING THAT RAW MATERIAL PRICE HIKES BY SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND CAPITALIST COUNTRIES ARE BOTH FACTORS IN THE GDR'S PROBLEM. SINCE HONECKER'S MEETING WITH THE BEZIRK PARTY SECRETARIES, LAST JANUARY, AT WHICH THE GDR'S FOREIGN TRADE PROBLEMS WERE APPARENTLY THE MAIN TOPIC, THE PARTY'S PUBLIC TREATMENT OF THE GDR'S TERMS OF TRADE PROBLEM HAS BECOME PROGRESSIVELY MORE EXPLICIT, TO THE CURRENT STAGE WHERE IT IS BECOMING A CENTRAL ELEMENT OF THE REGIME'S APPEAL FOR IMPROVED ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE. POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN TRADE, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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